APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/855,099	05/15/2001	Alfred Boyd Freeman		8740

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EXAMINER
MUHEBBULLAH, SAJEDA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2174	

DATE MAILED: 01/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/855,099	FREEMAN, ALFRED BOYD
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sajeda Muhebbullah	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *28 October 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-6,8 and 21-33* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-6,8 and 21-33* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 10/28/2005.

2.   Claims 1-6, 8, and 21-33 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 26 and 29 are

independent claims. Claims 1-2, 4, 5-6, and 8 were amended, claims 7 and 9-20 were cancelled,

and claims 21-33 were added. This action is made Final.

Specification

3.   Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a
separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed
150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the
printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means"
and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist
readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the
title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns,"
"The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Objections

4.   Claims 1, 22 are objected to because of the following informalities:

    a) claim1/line 17: the phrase "i)" should be changed to --h)--

    b) claim22/line 3: the phrase "one sections" should be changed to --one section--

    c) claim 25/line 3: the phrase "j)" should be changed to --i)--

    d) claim 25/line 4: the phrase "k)" should be changed to --j)--

    d) claim 25/line 5: the phrase "l)" should be changed to –k)--

    d) claim 25/line 6: the phrase "m)" should be changed to --l)--

    e) claim 29/line 16: the phrase "l)" should be changed to --i)--

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6.   Claims 29-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant(s) regard as their invention.   Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.   Claim 29 recites the limitation "transferring the member designated to the chosen direction and pattern to said text input system" in lines 16-17.   There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8.   Claims 1-6, 8, 21, 25, 29-30, and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Freeman ("Freeman" US 5,649,223).

As per independent claim 1, Freeman teaches the method for inputting text to a computer type apparatus having a data processing means, a text handling system, a memory holding a plurality of word sets each assigned to a starting letter, a display, and a pointing means comprising the steps of:

a) displaying a plurality of items on said display for word starts (Freeman, Table B, col.9, lines 62-67);

b) assigning a very frequent word and a starting letter to each said items (Freeman, Table B, col.9, lines 62-67, col.5, lines 9-10);

c) selecting one of said items and choosing the word or starting letter assigned to the selected item with said pointing means (Freeman, col. 5, lines 32-55); and

d) inputting the chosen word assigned to the selected one of said items to said text handling system (Freeman, col. 9, lines 11-22; col.4, lines 47-60).

e) accessing said memory for the word set assigned to the starting letter selected (Freeman, col.8, lines 11-31);

f) presenting the word set accessed on said display (Freeman, col.8, lines 11-31);

g) picking one word of said presented words with said pointing means (Freeman, col.8, lines 31-43); and

h) transferring the word picked to said text input system (Freeman, col.8, lines 31-43).

As per claim 2, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said memory holds a set of inflection suffixes and including the steps of:

i) designating each of inflection suffixes to a direction and a pattern (Freeman, col.15, lines 24-35);

j) moving said pointing means in a chosen direction and pattern (Freeman, col.15, lines 48-51); and

k) applying the inflection suffix designated to the chosen direction and pattern to the chosen word of step d) (Freeman, col. 8, lines 10-15).

As per claim 3, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 2 wherein the number of directions is eight and there are more than one pattern (Freeman, Figs. 6-9 and 11).

As per claim 4, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein the one of said chosen words assigned to the selected item have a set of related words and including the steps of:

i) designating each of said related words to a direction and a pattern (Freeman, col.20, lines 1-15);

j) moving said pointing means in a chosen direction and pattern (Freeman, col.20, lines 33-35); and

k) substituting one of said related words designated by the chosen direction and pattern for the chosen word in step d) (Freeman, col. 20, lines 33-35).

As per claim 5, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein the one of said chosen words assigned to the selected item has a set of 2nd words assigned and including the steps of:

i) designating each of said 2nd words with a direction and a pattern (Freeman, col.20, lines 1-15);

j) moving said pointing means in a chosen direction and pattern (Freeman, col.20, lines 33-35); and

k) inserting the one of said 2nd words designated by said chosen direction and pattern to accompany the chosen word in step i) (Freeman, col.20, lines 33-35).

As per claim 6, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said memory holds a set of punctuation and other word endings and including the steps of:

i) designating each of said punctuation and other word endings to a direction and a

pattern (Freeman, col. 21, lines 9-29);

j) moving said pointing means in a chosen direction and pattern (Freeman, col.21, lines 9-

29); and

k) applying the endings designated to said chosen direction and pattern to the chosen

word of step d) (Freeman, col. 21, lines 9-29).

As per claim 8, Freeman teaches the method wherein said memory holds each digit with a

set of members comprising related words, related number values, and related characters and

where the displayed items of step d) include said digits and wherein said method includes the

steps of:

i) picking one of said displayed items representing a digit with said pointing means

(Freeman, col.3, lines 59-67, col.4, lines 1-5, *a digit is considered an alphanumeric character*);

j) designating each of said digit related members to a direction and a pattern (Freeman,

col. 20, lines 33-35);

k) moving said pointing means in a chosen direction and pattern (Freeman, col.20, lines

33-35); and

l) transferring the member designated to the chosen direction and pattern to said text

handling system (Freeman, col. 20, lines 33-35).

As per claim 21, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein the items

displayed are the text of the respective very frequent words assigned to the respective item

(Table B, col.9, lines 62-67).

As per claim 25, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said memory

holds sets of inflection suffixes and including the steps of:

i) obtaining said set of suffixes from said memory (Freeman, col.8, lines 32-43, col.9,

lines 1-15);

j) showing the suffixes of said set on said display (Freeman, col.8, lines 32-43, col.9,

lines 1-15);

k) touching the display of one of said suffixes with said pointing means (Freeman, col.8,

lines 32-43, col.9, lines 1-15);

and

l) applying the touched suffix to the word transferred to said text input system (Freeman,

col.8, lines 32-43, col.9, lines 1-15).

Claim 29 is similar in scope to claim 1, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 30 is similar in scope to claim 21, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 33 is similar in scope to claim 8, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

10.   Claims 22 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman

("Freeman" US 5,649,223) in view of Kadaba et al. ("Kadaba", US 6,088,649).

As per claim 22, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said display has a touch sensitive screen, said pointing means consists of a pen (Freeman, col.7, lines 15-28). However, Freeman does not disclose wherein tapping with said pen on one section of the selected item chooses the word assigned and on another section of said item chooses said starting letter assigned. Kadaba teaches a method of inputting text wherein while on the selected item tapping the right/left cursor key selects the word and tapping the up/down cursor key selects the starting letter assigned (Kadaba, col.8, lines 50-67, col.9, lines 1-21). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Kadaba's teaching with Freeman's method in order to reduce the number of input required by the user.

Claim 31 is similar in scope to claim 22, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

11.   Claims 23 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman ("Freeman" US 5,649,223) in view of Collins et al. ("Collins", US 5,926,567).

As per claim 23, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said display has a touch sensitive screen, said pointing means consists of a pen and wherein touching one of said displayed items with said pen selects said item (Freeman, col.7, lines 15-28). However, Freeman does not disclose wherein removing said pen immediately chooses one of said assigned word or starting letter and remaining for an appreciable period chooses the other of said assigned word or starting letter. Collins teaches a method of displaying text wherein placing a pen on an item for a period of time chooses the next item (Collins, col.7, lines 43-55). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include Collins' teaching with Freeman's method in order to reduce the number of input required by the user.

Claim 32 is similar in scope to claim 23, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

12.   Claims 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman

("Freeman" US 5,649,223) in view of Davenport et al. ("Davenport", US 5,101,364).

As per claim 24, Freeman teaches the method according to claim 1 wherein said pointing

means consists of a mouse with a plurality of buttons (Freeman, col.7, lines 15-28). However,

Freeman does not disclose wherein operating one of said buttons chooses said word assigned and

another of said buttons chooses said starting letter. Davenport teaches a method wherein a two-

button mouse is used to select two different items (Davenport, col.10, lines 41-50). It would

have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include

Davenport's teaching with Freeman's method in order to make the selection of an item quicker

for the user.

13.   Claims 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman

("Freeman" US 5,649,223) in view of Microsoft Word ("Microsoft", Microsoft Word 9.0.4402

SR-1).

As per claim 26, Freeman teaches the method for inputting text to a computer type

apparatus having a data processing means, a text handling system, a memory holding letter

strings and characters starting with vowel sounds, a display, and an input means comprising the

steps of:

a) displaying a plurality of items on said display for word starts (Freeman, Table B, col.9,

lines 62-67);

b) assigning a very frequent word to each of said items (Freeman, Table B, col.9, lines

62-67, col.5, lines 9-10);

c) selecting one of said items with said input means (Freeman, col.5, lines 32-55);

d) inputting the word assigned to the selected item to said text input system (Freeman, col.9, lines 11-22; col.4, lines 47-60; col.8, lines 31-43).

However, Freeman does not teach the step of inserting the letter "n" after the word "a" if the word assigned to the following selected item starts with a vowel sound. Microsoft teaches a grammatical Autocorrect feature in which mistyped grammatical errors are corrected by the software wherein the word "a" is replaced by the word "an" where appropriate (Microsoft, Fig.1). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to include Microsoft's teaching with Freeman's method because it would provide the user the ability to more efficiently enter grammatically correct text.

As per claim 27, Microsoft teaches the method according to claim 26 wherein words starting with vowel letters and words starting with "h" followed by some letter strings are taken as words starting with vowel sounds (Microsoft, Fig.1, *Autocorrect replaces "a" with "an" for words like hour or herb*).

As per claim 28, Microsoft teaches the method according to claim 27 wherein capitalized abbreviations starting with letters having names starting with vowel sounds are taken as words starting with vowel sounds (Microsoft, Fig.1).

Response to Arguments

14.   Applicant's arguments filed 10/28/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued the following:

a) Freeman does not disclose obtaining both words and starting letters from the same displayed item and choosing either with a pointing means.

b) Regarding claim 26, the use of "a" or "an" depends on the starting sound of the

following word, abbreviation, or other; not on any grammatical considerations. Further, the

instant objective is not to correct typing errors but merely to squeeze another word into the very

important word start set of the text input system and to allow typists to obtain the appropriate one

of two words with the same action.

The Examiner disagrees for the following reasons:

Per a) Freeman does disclose both words and starting letters as seen in Table B. Starting

words are displayed in addition each word includes a starting letter.

Per b) Changing the word "a" to "an" is a matter of correcting grammar which is

dependent upon the following word. According to the features claimed wherein the letter "n" is

inserted after the word "a" if the word assigned to the following selected item starts with a vowel

sound, Microsoft clearly teaches the insertion of "n" in its AutoCorrect feature.

Conclusion

15.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing

date of this final action.

Communications

16.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Sajeda Muhebbullah whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4065**.
The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday/Thursday and alt. Mondays from 8:00 am to
4:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (571) 272-4063.

The central fax number for the organization where correspondence for this application or

proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sajeda Muhebbullah
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Art Unit 2174